



Allegra Calder, Chair
Jessica Szlag, Vice Chair
Clint Loper, Secretary
Dylan Ahearn
Jodi Connolly
Matthew Crane
Kristi Rennebohm Franz
Gabe Grijalva
Neal Komedal
Alfonso Lopez
Izzy Sederbaum
Jean White

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Sept. 4, 2013/ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Chair: Allegra Calder
Vice Chair: Jessica Szlag
Recorder: Jean White
Location: Seattle City Hall, Room L-280

Minutes Distribution List:

See Attachment A

Members Present:

Dylan Ahearn, Allegra Calder, Neal Komedal, Clint Loper, Alfonso Lopez, Kristi Rennebohm-Franz, Izzy Sederbaum, Jean White

Members Absent:

Matthew Crane, Jodi Connolly, Gabe Grijalva, Jessica Szlag

Guests:

Jeff Aken, Art Brochet (SDOT), Dongho Chang (SDOT), Rebecca Deehr (Mayors Office), Brian Dougherty (SDOT), Emily Ehlers (SDOT), Ivan Kaplan, Barbara Lee (SDOT), LeAnne Nelson, Lara Normand, Gordon Padelford, Merlin Rainwater, Ester Sandoval, Sam Woods (SDOT)

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Allegra Calder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sara Zora, SDOT, announced that this was her last meeting as the SBAB liaison. Emily Ehlers, SDOT, was introduced as the new SBAB liaison.
- Izzy Sederbaum was introduced as the new “Get Engaged” member of SBAB. Other new SBAB members will be announced at and attend the October SBAB meeting.

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planing processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

– City Council
Resolution 25534

PRESENTATIONS

Time: 6:05 p.m.

Topic: **Westlake Cycle Track**

Presenters: Barbara Lee, SDOT

Purpose: SBAB feedback on proposal early in design

The Westlake Cycle Track is very early in its design. 6,700 linear feet of track are proposed from the Ship Canal trail in Fremont to Aloha Street. SDOT is looking at placing the cycle track in the west side of the parking lot along Westlake Avenue. There will be 3-4 alternatives developed. Some design challenges include: driveways, freight/truck route, high capacity transit, businesses in area, tourism, and parking. Therefore there will be a very strong focus on public outreach with the community on this project.

Schedule: July 2014 preferred alternative to be selected.
February 2015 final design.
Construction 2015.

\$3.25 million currently secured for the project. Estimated total cost: \$3.6 million.
Requested SBAB input on project design and public outreach.

Questions, Answers and Comments:

- Allegra commented that the current bike trail through the parking lot is a disaster. The current trail is well signed and gets a lot of use, but there are lots of conflicts between bikes, cars and pedestrians. A cycle track will help to resolve the conflicts. If cycle track is in the parking lot that should resolved issues with freight/trucks.
- Kristi said that the outreach on the project should emphasize increasing safety.
- Jean added another message is that the project is to reduce conflict between bikes, pedestrians and cars. Should create more clarity for all users about where they should be in area.
- Neal asked if the cycle track will end at the South Lake Union Park? Answer: Will be decided in design process.
- Dylan pointed out that there are a lot of uncontrolled entrances and bad sight lines in the parking lot where cars can end up cutting off bikes. There are also a lot of fast bikes. Consider putting bike trail by pedestrian trail. Look at UW treatment on Burke-Gilman as way to separate bike/pedestrian trails. Look at ways to passively reduce bike speeds.
- Clint said that SBAB would be interested in reviewing the alternatives. Would be a good time to come back to the board with a presentation.
- Allegra said that another public outreach message for the project is that improved infrastructure will benefit businesses along Westlake.

SBAB Recommendations:

- Potential outreach messages for the project: increase safety, reduce conflicts between all users, increase clarity for all users on how to use area, and improved infrastructure will benefit businesses in area.
- Consider an alternative that places the cycle track on the east side of the parking lot beside the pedestrian trail. Look at UW Burke-Gilman treatment as a way to separate bikes/pedestrians.
- If cycletrack must go on the west side of the parking lot consider reducing the

- number of unsignalized entrances into the lot and pay special attention to line of sight and priority at conflict points with cars entering and exiting the lot.
- Come back to SBAB with a presentation of the alternatives.

Time: 6:35 p.m.

Topic: **2013 Bicycle Projects (SDOT Bicycle Program)**

Presenters: Sam Woods and Brian Dougherty, SDOT

Purpose: Update SBAB on 2013 bike projects

SDOT provided a current list of all projects on the 2013 work plan and proposed 2014 work plan for bike improvements under Traffic Management's Bicycle Program. The goal for 2013 is to add 7 miles of improved bike facilities. SDOT is on track to be over this goal in 2013. This year there are more buffered bike lanes and higher quality facilities, fewer sharrows being done. SDOT staff will update SBAB on a monthly basis on implementation of bike improvements. If SBAB members are particularly interested in projects, subcommittees can be formed to get more into the details of the projects. The 2014 work plan is draft.

Brian Dougherty then gave a presentation on four projects recently constructed, or currently in design: Green Lake Way N, NE 75th St., Roosevelt Way NE, and Renton Ave. S. Suggested that if SBAB wanted to write a letter of support for these projects it would be timely.

Questions, Answers and Comments:

- Dylan requested that there be a vicinity map with the project list in the future. Asked about the downtown cycle track study in 2014.
- Alfonso asked for details about the planned Rainer Ave S. improvements in 2014.
- Kristi suggested that maybe a way to work positively and proactively with the Seattle Police Department is to get them involved in issues with parking conflicts and bike lanes (e.g. boat trailers parked in bike lanes).
- Jean asked about the 2013 Ballard Bridge Study. Answer: Janice Day, SDOT, is the project manager. The study is in internal review at SDOT and will be presented to SBAB in two months. Study looks at connecting the Ballard Bridge bike facilities to the Ship Canal trail and widening the bike lanes on the approaches to the center of the bridge. The center of the bridge is designated as historic and won't be changed.
- Emily Ehlers, new SDOT staff person, talked about the West Seattle five-way intersection study. SDOT will be doing a design charrette for the project soon. SBAB members will be invited. Participants will ride the area and come to a downtown meeting to discuss options for improvements. She also mentioned that she is working on the Ballard bike box design.
- Sam Woods shared that the Neighborhood Greenways work plan project list is separate from arterial corridors, and SDOT will come to the next SBAB meeting with a presentation on it.
- Clint suggested that it would be helpful to have an overall list of all projects that include or could include bicycle facilities. This would include these Bicycle Program projects, as well as large capital projects, etc. He acknowledged that there wouldn't be time on agendas for a thorough presentation on each project, but with a comprehensive list as a starting point, SBAB could work with SDOT

staff to determine the best way to provide input.

- Kristi added that it would be better to have projects listed by region of the city and to have a vicinity map. This would help us all to track how we are doing on equity with the distribution of bike improvement as well.
- Clint expressed disappointment with the recent repaving of Rainer Ave. S. The roadway was improved with an overlay, but not the bike lanes. This was a huge missed opportunity to improve bike facilities along Rainer.
- Clint gave huge kudos to SDOT for the NE 75th St. project. Following the tragic collision in this area, SDOT turned around a project in a very short time to make the street safer. They had 5 public meetings. The improvements have greatly improved safety for the street, buffered sidewalks from traffic, and integrated bike lanes into the design. Extending the improvements to Banner is a great idea. This raises an important policy issue: should all future bike facility projects be designed for all ages and abilities? This project isn't all ages and abilities -- there wasn't room on the street -- but it is a big improvement for safety.
- On the Roosevelt Way NE project, Kristi asked about how to reduce traffic speed at the site? Cars are going too fast in the city. Sam suggested that SBAB get a presentation on the Be Super Safe Campaign.
- On the Renton Ave S. project, Kristi said that if projects are not going to be all ages and abilities due to constraints, that SDOT should add curb cuts, etc., to make it easier for bikers to use the sidewalks. It would be good for the city to develop guidance for bikes on how to use the sidewalks.

SBAB Recommendations:

- Future work plans should be broken out by region and include a vicinity map for the projects.
- SDOT staff should develop a more complete picture for SBAB of all the planned facility improvements, greenway planning, other planning efforts like Ballard Bridge, downtown cycle tracks happening in a given year. SBAB would like to work with SDOT staff on the best way to provide input.
- Future presentations: Greenways work plan, Ballard Bridge study, Be Super Safe Campaign.
- SBAB will consider writing a letter of support for the four projects presented in detail.

Public Comment:

- Merlin Rainwater said that she is concerned that the city continues to use downhill sharrows (e.g. the planned downhill sharrows along Roosevelt Way NE). Downhills are more dangerous, that's where the accidents are happening. Seattle won't learn techniques for safe facilities on hills from Portland or Copenhagen, so we will need to devise our own approaches. Brian Dougherty pointed out that at least there will be no parking on the downhill side which makes it safer.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Topic: **Bicycle Master Plan Update**

Presenters: Sara Zora, SDOT

Purpose: Update SBAB on Bicycle Master Plan Update

Sara Zora gave a status update on the Draft BMP Update to SBAB. The draft was released in June. At the August SBAB meeting, SDOT staff were still looking at cost

estimates and edits to maps. The City has received a lot of public comments on the Plan and in particular about the NE 65th St. improvements proposed in the draft update. The proposed Plan update will show changes between the draft map and the final version. SDOT had hoped to have a proposed Plan completed by September, but the goal is now early November in order to address all the comments. City Council action on the plan may be in December. There will be a public hearing. Adoption may be in late 2013 or early 2014. The team really appreciates all the SBAB members' time and effort to help with the BMP Update. It is important to the team to take the time to get the final draft right and to address the public comments received.

Questions, Answers and Comments:

- Dylan asked how the budget for the update went. Sara responded that they were out of funding for the consultants. A lot of staff time has gone to the project. It was a tight budget with only \$250,000.
- Kristi said that the Plan should include language about what the public process will be for implementing projects recommended in the Plan to help relieve public concerns about the Plan.
- SBAB members thanked SDOT team for their efforts on the BMP Update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Merlin Rainwater shared that on a recent KUOW show a traffic expert was asked if it was legal to bike on the sidewalk in Seattle and he didn't know the answer. We have a long way to go on education. Shared that she recently got Virginia Mason? as part of the Seattle Greenways Safe Route to Health program to agree to update their website with active transportation instructions and to add bike parking to their entrance. If you see them adding these improvements, please use them and thank them for doing it.
- Rebecca Deehr from the Mayor's Office announced that the City anticipates \$14.8 million in revenue for 2013-14 from traffic cameras near schools. The funding will go to Safe Routes to School projects that are neighborhood supported. The City is hiring a consultant to develop a plan for how future revenue should be allocated.

SBAB UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

- Freight Safety Fair will be Friday, Sept. 6.
- Ballard Neighborhood Greenway grand opening event will be Saturday, Sept. 7.
- Sept. 12, I-90 Light Rail Station Open House at NW African American Museum. There will be a presentation on the project at the October SBAB meeting as well.
- Sept. 20 Park(ing) Day Event.
- Clint Loper thanked the outgoing SBAB members for their time and effort on SBAB, and the significant contributions they have made to improving bicycle infrastructure and programming in Seattle.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

Meeting Minutes Distribution List:

Michael McGinn, Mayor, City of Seattle

Rebecca Deehr, Strategic Advisor for Policy and Outreach, Office of the Mayor

City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, Transportation Committee Chair

Peter Hahn, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Goran Sparrman, Deputy Director, SDOT

Dongho Chang, City Traffic Engineer, SDOT

Kevin O'Neill, Planning and Urban Design Manager, SDOT

Sam Woods, Manager, Bicycle, Pedestrian & Neighborhood Program & Project
Development, SDOT

Sara Zora, Transportation Planner, Interim SBAB Liaison, SDOT

Emily Ehlers, Senior Transportation Planner, Incoming SBAB Liaison, SDOT

Diane Sugimura, Director, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

Bernie Agor Matsuno, Director, Department of Neighborhoods (DoN)

Allie Gerlach, SDOT Communications

City of Seattle Council Transportation Committee Members

City of Seattle Neighborhood District Coordinators

SBAB Members

Meeting Presenters

Individual Meeting Attendees